

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The lifting system of claim 4 19, wherein the raise/lower member engages and supports a structure coupled with the hitch mechanism.
3. (Previously Presented) The lifting system of claim 2, wherein the raise/lower member includes at least a portion configured under the structure coupled with the hitch mechanism to support the structure.
4. (Currently Amended) The lifting system of claim 4 19, wherein the raise/lower member is attached with the hitch mechanism.
- 5-7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) The lifting system of claim 4 19, wherein the raise/lower member is attached with the intermediate mechanism.
9. (Currently Amended) The lifting system of claim 8 19, ~~wherein the raise/lower member includes a plurality of leg portions, a horizontal member that has a first end attached with a first leg portion and a second end attached with a second leg portion, and a first lever member attached with the horizontal member, wherein the first lever member is provided with an opening;~~

wherein the intermediate mechanism includes a second attachment mechanism, wherein each of the pair of linkage bars is provided with a second opening proximal to a

lower end thereof, and wherein the second attachment mechanism includes at least a second bolt and a second nut; and

wherein the link member is attached with the raise/lower member by inserting the second bolt through the second opening of each of the pair of linkage bars and the opening of the first lever member, and then securing the second bolt with the second nut.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The lifting system of claim ~~40~~ 9, wherein movement of the handle member moves the intermediate mechanism to move the raise/lower member.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The lifting system of claim ~~44~~ 11, wherein the hitch mechanism couples a structure to a vehicle, wherein movement of the handle member in a direction outward from the vehicle moves the intermediate mechanism in a downward direction to lower the raise/lower member.

16. (Currently Amended) The lifting system of claim ~~43~~ 15, wherein the hitch mechanism couples a structure to a vehicle, wherein movement of the handle member in a direction inward toward the vehicle moves the intermediate mechanism in an upward direction to raise the raise/lower member.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A lifting system for use with a hitch mechanism, comprising:

a raise/lower member;

an intermediate mechanism, attached to the raise/lower member at a first end and attached to a control at a second end, to move the raise/lower member ~~at a first~~ between a lower position and an upper position; said control causing the intermediate mechanism to move the raise/lower member from one position to the other; and

a biasing member having a spring,

wherein the raise/lower member includes a plurality of leg portions, a horizontal member that has a first end attached with a first leg portion and a second end attached with a second leg portion, and a lever member attached with the horizontal member, wherein the lever member is provided with an opening; and

wherein an end of the spring is inserted through the opening of the lever member to attach the spring with the raise/lower member.

20. (Original) The lifting system of claim 19, wherein the spring is attached with the raise/lower member to provide a biasing force of pulling the raise/lower member in an upward direction.

21-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) A hitch mechanism including a lifting system, said hitch mechanism comprising:

a first handle member;

a coupling member;

a first linkage mechanism for linking the first handle member and the coupling member, wherein the first handle member is capable of being moved in order to raise and lower the coupling member; and

a biasing member comprising a spring having a first end and a second end; and

wherein the lifting system comprises:

a second handle member;

a raise/lower member; and

a second linkage mechanism attached to the raise/lower member at a first end and attached to the second handle member at a second end, said second linkage mechanism being configured to link the second handle member and the raise/lower member, wherein the second handle member is capable of being moved in order to raise and lower the raise/lower member;

wherein the raise/lower member includes a plurality of leg portions, a horizontal member that has a first end attached with a first leg portion and a second end attached with a second leg portion, and a lever member attached with the horizontal member, wherein the lever member is provided with an opening; and

wherein the second end of the spring is inserted through the opening of the lever member to attach the spring with the raise/lower member.

35. (Original) The hitch mechanism of claim 34, wherein the second end of the spring is attached with the raise/lower member to provide a biasing force of pulling the raise/lower member in an upward direction.

36-52. (Canceled.)

53. (New) The hitch mechanism of claim 19, wherein said control further includes a handle member, said handle member comprising an opening and being attached to the intermediate mechanism;

wherein the intermediate mechanism includes at least a link member and a first attachment mechanism, said link member includes a pair of linkage bars, each of the

pair of linkage bars being provided with a first opening proximal to an upper end thereof, and wherein the first attachment mechanism includes at least a first bolt and a first nut; and

wherein the link member is attached with the handle member by inserting the first bolt through the first opening of each of the pair of linkage bars and the opening of the handle member, and then securing the first bolt with the first nut.

54. (New) The hitch mechanism of claim 20, wherein said control further includes a handle member, said handle member comprising an opening and being attached to the intermediate mechanism;

wherein the intermediate mechanism includes at least a link member and a first attachment mechanism, said link member includes a pair of linkage bars, each of the pair of linkage bars being provided with a first opening proximal to an upper end thereof, and wherein the first attachment mechanism includes at least a first bolt and a first nut; and

wherein the link member is attached with the handle member by inserting the first bolt through the first opening of each of the pair of linkage bars and the opening of the handle member, and then securing the first bolt with the first nut.

55. (New) The lifting system of claim 53, wherein the raise/lower member engages and supports a structure coupled with the hitch mechanism.

56. (New) The lifting system of claim 55, wherein the raise/lower member includes at least a portion configured under the structure coupled with the hitch mechanism to support the structure.

57. (New) The lifting system of claim 53, wherein the raise/lower member is attached with the hitch mechanism.

58. (New) The lifting system of claim 53, wherein the raise/lower member is attached with the intermediate mechanism.